

Christian Life Academy

A Christ-centered School of Excellence

Middle School Letter to Parents
2016-2017 Academic Year

Dear Middle School Parents,

While summer is a time for your child to relax, enjoy family time and play with friends, it should also be a time to curl up with a good book or two...or three...or four...or more! ☺ During the summer, we expect our middle schoolers to read and enjoy books!

REQUIRED BOOK REVIEW

Middle school students at CLA are required to complete a book review on a book of their choice. This will be a graded writing assignment for Literature class due on the first day of school. It must be written in cursive, using a blue or black pen, or it may be typed. Be sure to include the name of the book along with the author's name!

Questions to answer in the book review include:

1. Where does the story take place? (Setting)
2. Who are the main characters? Describe them. (Characterization)
3. How did the main characters change throughout the story?
4. Which character would you choose as a friend and why?
5. What is the problem in the story and how was it resolved? (Conflict/Resolution)
6. What is the climax of the story? (Climax)
7. How did the story end? (Resolution/Conclusion)
8. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

REQUIRED BIBLE READING and REFLECTIVE RESPONSE

Middle school students are to read the book of 2 Timothy this summer and write a reflective response to what they have read. This is also due on the first day of class and will be graded as an assignment for Bible class. Please refer to the writing prompt for writing guidelines.

Writing prompt:

After reading 2 Timothy, choose three scriptures from the book of 2 Timothy and write about how these verses can be applied to your life. You may handwrite or type this, but if you handwrite it, please use cursive and a blue or black pen. Paper length: 250-300 words.

Please carefully read the attached Middle School Summer Reading guidelines and summer reading suggestions. Enjoy your summer with your children and we look forward to seeing you in September!

Your co-laborers in educating to the glory of God,
The Middle School Teaching Team

Mrs. Stacey D'Agostino – 8th Grade
Mrs. Donna Collins – 7th Grade
Mrs. Annamarie March – 6th Grade

Why We Require Summer Reading at Christian Life Academy

Summer reading is smart!

Studies reveal:

- *The number of books read in summer is consistently related to academic gains.*
- *Significant vocabulary gains take place when students read in the summer.*
- *Significant fluency gains take place through summer reading programs!*

We encourage you as parents to help your children learn to base their reading choices on whether there is historical and subject-related significance as well as literary merit. Just say “no” to “junk food for the brain!” Help them learn how to be discerning about what they choose to read...they are feeding their minds!

It is with the following goals in mind that we require reading over the summer:

Goal #1 - To provide an opportunity for students to keep literacy skills sharpened.

Goal #2 - To motivate students to read for pleasure while guiding them to make sound choices using an approved suggested book list. (Parental approval prevails!)

Goal #3 - To foster the correlation between reading and writing skills, because *well read individuals oftentimes become excellent writers!*

Goal #4 - To encourage our students to discover and develop a sense of ownership in their “reading lives” by giving them the ability to choose what interests them from a long list of books that hold their interest while developing their minds.

Below is a reading list that contains suggestions for you to consider. Do feel free to consult other resources for quality choices, and remember that if you speak with your local librarian, he or she may have suggestions but might not share the same worldview that you do! Be discerning as you ask around for book suggestions!

An excellent parent resource that you can also use for book selection is:

Honey for a Child's Heart Fourth Edition by Gladys Hunt

As with everything, each book must be read with Scripture as our final standard!

Sixth Grade Reading List Suggestions

Clicking on [this link](#) will bring you to a blog page written by Justin Taylor from The Gospel Coalition. It contains links to Amazon, which will enable you to read previews of each book title listed.

[Visit www.pluggedin.com](http://www.pluggedin.com) for Christian Book Reviews

- Adams, Richard. *Watership Down*
- Bishop, Claire. *Twenty and Ten*
- Crane, Stephen. *The Red Badge of Courage*
- Lewis, C. S. *The Magician's Nephew*
- Lewis, C. S. *The Last Battle*
- Ten Boom, Corrie. *The Hiding Place*

Level 1

- Alexander, Lloyd. *The Prydain Chronicles*
- Bradbury, Ray. *The Martian Chronicles*
- Kjelgaard, James. *Big Red*
- Lester, Julius. *The Tales of Uncle Remus*
- Rawlings, Marjorie. *The Yearling*
- Sorensen, Virginia. *Miracles on Maple Hill*
- Speare, Elizabeth. *The Bronze Bow*
- Van Leeuwen, Jean. *Bound for Oregon*

Level 2

- Baum, Frank L. *The Wizard of Oz*
- Dickens, Charles. *A Christmas Carol*
- Eareckson, Joni. *Joni*
- Fisher, Dorothy. *Understood Betsy*
- Irving, Washington. *Rip Van Winkle*
- Marshall, Catherine. *Christy*
- O'Hara, Mary. *My Friend Flicka*
- Sterling, Dorothy. *Freedom Train*
- Taylor, Theodore. *The Cay*
- Trapp, Maria Augusta. *The Story of Trapp Family Singers*
- Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer or The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Level 3

- Field, Rachel. *Hitty: Her First Hundred Years*
- Henty, G. H. *By Right of Conquest*
- Henty, G. H. *In the Reign of Terror*
- Kipling, Rudyard. *The Jungle Book*
- London, Jack. *The Call of the Wild*
- Orczy, Emmuska. *The Scarlet Pimpernel*
- Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Kidnapped*
- Taylor, Mildred. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*
- Tunnell, Michael. *Candy Bomber*
- Twain, Mark. *The Prince and the Pauper*
- Verne, Jules. *Around the World in Eighty Days*

As with everything, each book must be read with Scripture as our final standard!

Seventh Grade Reading List

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[Visit www.pluggedin.com](http://www.pluggedin.com) for Christian Book Reviews

- Aldrich, Thomas. *The Story of a Bad Boy*
- Brother Andrew. *God's Smuggler*
- Bunyan, John. *The Pilgrim's Progress* (original)
- DeJong, Meindert. *The House of Sixty Fathers*
- DeKruif, Paul. *Microbe Hunters*
- Dickens, Charles. *Nicholas Nickleby*
- Dickens, Charles. *Oliver Twist*
- Dumas, Alexandre. *The Count of Monte Cristo*
- Dumas, Alexandre. *The Three Musketeers*
- Eaton, Jeanette. *David Livingstone, Foe of Darkness*
- Field, Rachel. *Calico Bush*
- Forester, C. S. *Horatio Hornblower*
- Freedman, Ben. *Mrs. Mike*
- Grant, George. *The Last Crusader*
- Henry, O. *The Best Short Stories of O. Henry*
- Henty, G. A. *By Pike and Dyke*
- Henty, G. A. *In Freedom's Cause*
- Hugo, Victor. *Les Miserables*
- Kipling, Rudyard. *Captains Courageous*
- Latham, Jean Lee. *This Dear-Bought Land*
- Lewis, C. S. *Out of the Silent Planet*
- Lewis, C. S. *Perelandra*
- Lewis, C. S. *That Hideous Strength*
- Little, Paul. *Know What You Believe*
- Little, Paul. *Know Why You Believe*
- MacDonald, George. *The Baronet's Song*
- O'Dell, Scott. *Streams to the River, River to the Sea*
- O'Dell, Scott. *The Hawk That Dare Not Hunt By Day*
- Orczy, Baroness. *The Scarlet Pimpernel*
- Sereby, Kate. *The Good Master*
- Speare, Elizabeth George. *The Bronze Bow*
- Stevenson, Robert Louis. *The Black Arrow*
- Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
- Thomson, Andy. *Morning Star of the Reformation*

(See next page for Seventh Grade History List)

As with everything, each book must be read with Scripture as our final standard!

Seventh Grade History List

- Abernathy, Alta. *Bud & Me: The True Adventure of the Abernathy Boys*
- Ambrose, Stephen. *The Good Fight: How WWII Was Won*
- Beatty, Patricia. *Turn Homeward, Hannalee*
- Bierman, Carol. *Journey to Ellis Island*
- Bliven, Bruce. *Invasion: The Story of D-Day*
- Bradley, James. *Flags of Our Fathers*
- Brown, Dee. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*
- Catton, Bruce. *A Stillness At Appomattox*
- Cornelissen, Cornelia. *Soft Rain: A Story of the Cherokee Trail of Tears*
- Crockett, Davy. *Davy Crockett: His Own Story*
- Derry, Joseph T. *Story of the Confederate States*
- De Vries, Anne. *Journey Through the Night*
- Doswell, Paul. *War Stories: True Stories from the First and Second World Wars*
- Frank, Anne. *The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition*
- Freedman, Russell. *Immigrant Kids*
- Grant, George. *Carry a Big Stick: The Uncommon Heroism of T. Roosevelt*
- Hemingway, Ernest. *The Old Man and the Sea*
- Henty, G. A. *With Lee in Virginia*
- Hersey, John. *Hiroshima*
- Hunt, Irene. *Across Five Aprils*
- Ingold, Jeanette. *Hitch*
- Irwin, James. *Destination: Moon*
- Kantor, MacKinlay. *Gettysburg*
- Lester, Julius. *To Be A Slave*
- Levitin, Sonia. *Journey to America*
- Linnea, Sharon. *Raoul Wallenberg: The Man Who Stopped Death*
- Mansfield, Stephen. *Never Give In: The Extraordinary Character of Winston Churchill*
- Marrin, Albert. *The Yanks Are Coming*
- Marrin, Albert. *Stalin: Russia's Man of Steel*
- Marrin, Albert. *Hitler*
- Marrin, Albert. *America and Vietnam: The Elephant and the Tiger*
- McMurdie, Jean McAnlis. *Land of the Morning*
- McMurdie, William. *Hey, Mac!*
- Murphy, Jim. *The Boys' War: Confederate & Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War*
- Nolan, Peggy. *The Spy Who Came in from the Sea*
- O'Grady, Captain Scott. *Basher Five-two*
- Prins, Piet. *The Lonely Sentinel* (The Shadow Series)
- Raven, Margot. *The Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot*
- Reynolds, Quentin. *The Wright Brothers*
- Serrailier, Ian. *Escape From Warsaw*
- Sperry, Armstrong. *All Sail Set*
- Steele, William. *We Were There on the Oregon Trail*
- Steele, William. *We Were There with the Pony Express*
- Taylor, Theodore. *Air Raid—Pearl Harbor!*
- Taylor, Mildred. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*
- ten Boom, Corrie. *The Hiding Place*
- Trapp, Maria Augusta. *The Story of Trapp Family Singers*
- Van Leeuwen, Jean. *Bound for Oregon*
- Velde, Vivian. *A Coming Evil*

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Eighth Grade Reading List

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[Visit www.pluggedin.com for Christian Book Reviews](http://www.pluggedin.com)

- Austen, Jane. *Emma*
- Austen, Jane. *Northanger Abbey*
- Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*
- Braithwaite, Edward. *To Sir, with Love*
- Chesterton, G. K. *The Complete Father Brown*
- Chesterton, G. K. *The Best of Father Brown*
- Colson, Charles. *Born Again*
- Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe*
- DeKruif, Paul. *Microbe Hunters*
- Dickens, Charles. *A Tale of Two Cities*
- Dickens, Charles. *David Copperfield*
- Douglas, Lloyd C. *The Robe*
- Forester, C. S. *Horatio Hornblower*
- Henry, O. *Best Short Stories of O. Henry*
- Lewis, C. S. *The Screwtape Letters*
- Scott, Sir Walter. *Ivanhoe*
- Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*
- Shakespeare, William. *Julius Caesar*
- Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth*
- Shakespeare, William. *Much Ado About Nothing*
- Shakespeare, William. *Othello*
- Shakespeare, William. *Twelfth Night*
- Sheldon, Charles. *In His Steps*
- Swift, Jonathan. *Gulliver's Travels*
- Ten Boom, Corrie. *The Hiding Place*
- Twain, Mark. *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*
- Wallace, Lew. *Ben Hur*
- White, T. H. *The Sword in the Stone*

(See next page for Eighth Grade History Reading List)

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Eighth Grade History List

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- Bliven, Bruce. *The American Revolution*
- Blos, Joan. *A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal*
- Bond, Douglas. *Guns of Thunder*
- Bond, Douglas. *Rebel's Keep*
- Calabro, Marian. *The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party*
- Carter, Alice. *The American Revolution*
- Collins, David. *Noah Webster: Master of Words*
- Cousins, Margaret. *Ben Franklin of Old Philadelphia*
- Cox, Clinton. *Mark Twain*
- Cox, Clinton. *Undying Glory: True Story of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment*
- Dafoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe*
- Daugherty, James. *Of Courage Undaunted*
- Daugherty, James. *The Landing of the Pilgrims*
- de Trevino, Elizabeth. *I, Juan de Pareja*
- DK Eyewitness. *North American Indian*
- Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain*
- Forbes, Esther. *Paul Revere and the World He Lived In*
- Fenimore, James. *The Last of the Mohicans*
- Foster, Genevieve. *George Washington's World*
- Freedman, Russell. *Out of Darkness: The Story of Louis Braille*
- Fritz, Jean. *Why Not, Lafayette?*
- Hamilton, Alexander, et al. *The Federalist Papers*
- Haugaard, Erik. *Cromwell's Boy*
- Jackson, Shirley. *The Witchcraft of Salem Village*
- Lasky, Kathryn. *Jahanara: Princess of Princesses*
- Lawton, Wendy. *The Captive Princess*
- Lawton, Wendy. *The Tinker's Daughter*
- Mansfield, Stephen. *Forgotten Founding Father: George Whitefield*
- McPherson, Joyce. *The Ocean of Truth: The Story of Isaac Newton*
- Murphy, Jim. *A Young Patriot*
- Newman, Shirlee. *The African Slave Trade*
- O'Dell, Scott. *Streams to the River, River to the Sea*
- Roosevelt, T. and Lodge, H. *Hero Tales from American History*
- Savery, Constance. *The Reb and the Redcoats*
- Schanzer, Rosalyn. *How We Crossed the West*
- Severance, John. *Thomas Jefferson: Architect of Democracy*
- Speare, Elizabeth. *George. The Witch of Blackbird Pond*
- Speare, Elizabeth. *The Sign of the Beaver*
- Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Kidnapped*
- Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Treasure Island*
- Vaughn, David. *Give Me Liberty*
- Wilkins, J. Steven. *Call of Duty: The Sterling Nobility of Robert E. Lee*
- Winik, Jay. *April 1865: The Month That Saved America*
- Yates, Elizabeth. *Amos Fortune, Free Man*
- York, Alvin. *Sergeant York and the Great War*

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